

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01

SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

AGR-05 /074 W

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R 151751Z JAN 76

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 303

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 1540

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE EC BRUSSELS 00421

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: EC APPLE IMPORTS FROM SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE

REF: 75 EC BRUSSELS 09252

1. ON JANUARY 13, EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS SIMONNET (DG I) AND WINDLE (DG VI) MET AT THEIR REQUEST WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE MISSIONS OF ARGENTINA, AUSTRALIA, CHILE, NEW ZEALAND AND SOUTH AFRICA TO DISCUSS THE EC APPLE SITUATION. THE LATEST COMMISSION FORECASTS INDI-

CATE A CONTINUING DEPRESSED EC MARKET FOR APPLES: PRODUCTION IS ESTIMATED AT 7.3 MILLION

M.T. IN 1975 (COMPARED TO 5.8 MILLION IN 1974 AND 7.4 MILLION IN 1973), WITHDRAWALS FROM THE MARKET HAVE DISPOSED OF 490,000

M.T. BY THE END OF DECEMBER 1975 (34,000 M.T. IN 1974, 403,000

M.T. IN 1973), AND PRIVATE STOCKS STOOD AT 2.4 MILLION M.T.

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AS OF DECEMBER 1, 1975. THE COMMISSION ASKED REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE EXPORTING COUNTRIES TO GIVE INFORMATION

REGARDING THEIR EXPECTED DELIVERIES TO THE EC FOR THIS YEAR.
ANOTHER MEETING WILL BE HELD JANUARY 23 TO REVIEW THIS INFORMATION.

2. THIS IS THE SECOND MEETING OF ITS KIND BETWEEN THE
COMMISSION AND THIRD-COUNTRY MISSION REPRESENTATIVES SINCE
THE DUTCH RAISED THE PROBLEM OF EC APPLE SURPLUSES AT THE
COUNCIL MEETING LAST OCTOBER (REFTEL).

3. OUR COMMISSION SOURCE DENIED THAT THE EC WAS CONSIDERING
SAFEGUARD MEASURES AGAINST APPLE IMPORTS OR THAT IT IS REQUESTING
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE EXPORTERS TO RESTRAIN VOLUNTARILY THEIR
SHIPMENTS TO THE EC. NEEDLESS TO SAY, HOWEVER, THE COMMISSION
WOULD BE GREATLY RELIEVED IF THESE COUNTRIES COULD DELAY THEIR
SHIPMENTS UNTIL AFTER THE CRITICAL APRIL, MAY, JUNE PERIOD,
WHEN EC PRODUCE IS AT ITS PEAK ON THE EC MARKET. OUR SOURCES
DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE EC COULD ABSORB NORMAL IMPORT LEVELS AND THE
COMMISSION DID NOT INDICATE ANY IMPORT LEVEL THAT WOULD NOT
DISTURB THE EC MARKET. A NEW ZEALAND SOURCE ESTIMATES
THAT REGULAR PROJECTED SENDINGS OF APPLES FROM THE FIVE SOUTHERN
HEMISPHERE COUNTRIES COULD AMOUNT TO BETWEEN 330,000 M.T.-
449,000 M.T. (HE ALSO TOLD THE COMMISSION AT THE MEETING
THAT ONE REASON WHY EC WITHDRAWALS WERE SO HEAVY IN 1975 WAS
THAT THE CROP, ALTHOUGH LARGE IN QUANTITY, WAS POOR IN
QUALITY.)

4. REACTION AMONG OUR MISSION SOURCES (AUSTRALIAN, NEW
ZEALAND, AND SOUTH AFRICAN) IS DIVIDED ON WHETHER THE EC
IS OR WILL BE THREATENING THEIR EXPORTS WITH SAFEGUARD
MEASURES OR "VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS." THE COMMISSION WOULD
PREFER VOLUNTARY RESTRAINTS ON THE PART OF SUPPLIERS IF
NECESSARY RATHER THAN AN EC SAFEGUARD ACTION.

5. US MISSION OFFICER ASKED WINDLE WHETHER IN LIGHT OF THE
EC SURPLUS PROBLEMS THE EC WOULD STEP UP ITS EXPORT SALES
PROMOTION, I.E., INCREASE EXPORT SUBSIDIES. HE REPLIED THAT
THERE WAS NO CHANCE OF THE EC INCREASING ITS EXPORT SUBSIDIES
AND THAT, IN FACT, THERE WAS SOME TALK OF REDUCING SOME OF
THEM.

GREENWALD

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